



Washington State  
Department of Transportation

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### **Major Events and Construction in Spokane May Result in Heavy Traffic This Weekend.**

Spokane area motorists will have some challenges this weekend with events and construction impacting traffic. The Fairchild Air Force Base "Skyfest" open house with the USAF Thunderbirds, Orange County Chopper motorcycle show and charity ride, plus Interstate 90 construction all come together this weekend and may increase congestion on several already busy routes around Spokane.

On Saturday the gates at Fairchild Air Force Base open at 9:00 a.m. This event usually brings a significant number of vehicles to westbound U.S. 2 in the Airway Heights area.

Also on Saturday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., up to 1,000 motorcyclists are expected to travel from the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, turn eastbound on U.S. 2, then travel into Spokane and the Fairgrounds.

On Saturday morning area drivers should expect significant traffic congestion at the intersection of U.S. 2 and Hayford Rd., U.S. 2 in Airway Heights and at Fairchild plus Interstate 90 through Spokane. In addition, the OCC motorcycle charity ride may cause congestion on northbound U.S. 195 where it meets I-90.

The Fairchild Air Force Base Skyfest features the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerobatic team on both Saturday and Sunday. The Thunderbirds always draw huge crowds to the base to view this world-class aerial display. At the Spokane County Fairgrounds, the Orange County Choppers show will be the highlight all weekend. This event is sure to draw a large attendance.

In the middle of all this is the construction zone on Interstate 90 in downtown Spokane. The freeway has been reduced to two narrow lanes with no shoulders, the speed limit has been lowered to 45 mph and several on and off ramps have been closed.

Washington State Patrol Troopers, Spokane County Sheriff's Deputies, City of Spokane Police, and other law enforcement agencies will assist in directing traffic for the Fairchild Air Force Base airshow and the motorcycle rally participants this weekend. In addition, Washington State Department of Transportation crews will be operating the signals along U.S. 2 to help keep traffic moving.

Motorists should expect slow traffic, congestion, and delays on Interstate 90 and U.S. 2, along with adjacent County roads and City streets on Saturday and Sunday.

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